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## PHILATETIC SUB-STUDIES.

### I. PAPER.

BY THE EDITOR.

ONE of the greatest difficulties which presents itself to the young and inexperienced collector is that of distinguishing the points of differences between the many varieties of paper. These slight differences of paper make great differences in the prices of certain stamps, and are of considerable importance, if known. For instance, the Canada 1 cent brown, of 1868, is worth to cents on *wove* paper, \$1.00 on *pelure* paper, on *water-marked* paper, \$2.25, and on *laid* paper, \$15.00 to \$20.00. Thus the necessity of being able to distinguish the difference is readily apparent. The principal varieties of paper that come under the notice of a collector are all that I will attempt to deal with. *Wove paper*, the commonest of all varieties of paper, and that generally met with, is easily distinguished. It shows an even texture throughout, and when held before the light shows in the texture small dots close together, and evenly distributed throughout the surface; in thickness it varies greatly, from the thinnest of *tissue paper* to cardboard. It is nearly always used for ordinary printing, such as newspapers, books, etc.; and in the printing of postage stamps it is used eight times out of ten. This magazine is printed on *wove* paper. *Wove paper* exists in two varieties, *water-marked wove* and *plain wove*. The latter is distinguished by the absence of the water-mark. *Laid paper* is not as often met with as the *wove*, yet it is found more frequently than the other varieties. *Laid paper* has, close together in its substance, parallel water-mark lines; for example, see the cover of this magazine, or the U.S. stamped envelopes. *Pelure paper* is one of the varieties which present a great difficulty to the average collector. It is a variety of *wove*. It is distinguished by the absence of the dots which form a characteristic of the *wove*, by its tough texture, by its somewhat rough surface, which appears to be composed of small fibres or hairs—*Batonne paper* has parallel lines in its surface further apart than in *laid* paper. In England it is commonly called "foreign note." It may also be either *laid* or *wove*, though generally the latter. *Carton paper*, though occasionally mentioned, is a variety seldom met with. It is of a heavy, indistinct texture, resembling cardboard; for example, see the stamps of Rampour. *Old paper* is a term applied to paper having an old and shabby appearance, such as the first issue of U.S. match stamps. *Papier Moire* is a paper having wavy, undulating lines on its surface, giving it watered-like *moire antique* silk. For example, see the stamps of the 1875 issue of Spain. *Ribbed paper* is a variety often met with in the study of the stamps of Canada. It varies greatly, and in many cases it is barely discernible, though existing. The *heavy-ribbed* paper is like the surface

of ordinary silk, its surface being covered with little ribs or raised lines, with slight hollow between. *Soft-ribbed* differs but slightly from the heavy-ribbed, excepting that the ribs are not so prominently raised and present an almost even surface. *Rice paper*, or, as it is sometimes called, *silk gloss paper*, is made from rice straw, and presents a fine silky appearance, being soft and smooth to the touch; for example, see Japan 1871 issue. Many of the *proofs* of Canadian stamps are printed on *rice paper*. *Colored paper* is strictly what its name implies—refers to its color, not its texture. It may be found in *wove*, *laid*, *batonne* or any other variety of paper. The stamps of Panama, Antioquia (late issues), Nowanugger, and some of the early Mexican stamps, are found on colored paper. Stamps are generally printed in black when printed on colored paper; and catalogues in such cases give only the color of the paper, followed by a *p.* *Gold-beater's skin* is a peculiar paper, with a peculiar name. It resembles *bond-paper*, parchment or *onion-skin* paper. It is thin, transparent and very tough. *Manilla paper* is a coarse buff paper, made from Manilla grass, generally used by store-keepers, and publishers for wrappers. Its thickness varies greatly. *Straw paper* is made from the straw of any grain; for instance, see the Canadian wrappers of the current issue. *Verge paper* is *laid* paper, in which the water-marked lines run in an oblique direction; see, for example, the Canadian envelopes, or Holland envelopes of 1885. *Water-marked paper* has designs, lines or letters in the texture of the paper, produced by means of the impression of raised wire while the paper is in a pulpy state. The water-marks in paper appears lighter than the rest of the paper. *Mince paper* is very similar to *onion skin* or *gold-beaten skin* paper; see the 1862 issue of Turkey. *Native paper* is made by hand in half-civilized countries, the thickness of the paper varying in different parts of a sheet, and as a result the printing on it is usually indistinct; for example, see the stamp of Cashmere and Nowanugger. The foregoing varieties constitute the only important ones, and outside of these other varieties are seldom met with. The description given for the various varieties of paper have been necessarily brief, but with a little study will enable the collector to readily distinguish the *paper-varieties* of his stamps. In this the day of specialism, when the difference of the paper affects the price of stamps, every collector should study his stamps. You say, "I do not collect varieties of paper; what will the study benefit me?" It may not benefit your individual collection, but it will benefit your purse, for the collectors who are willing to pay high prices for their *paper* varieties are by no means few; and who knows but you may, in the course of the examination of the paper of your stamps, secure some great rarity. It is to the interest of every collector to give this branch of our science more than a casual glance, but rather a careful study. In my next paper I shall endeavor to give a few brief explanatory notes on the "Varieties of Perforation," another subject which many collectors know but little about.